# **Kashmir in Autumn with Saffron Fields**

## & the Golden Triangle (Delhi ,Agra-Taj Mahal & Jaipur )

1 29 Oct - 05 Nov 2015 : 9 Days / 7 nights



### Day 01: Arrive Delhi

(MOB)

A traditional welcome on arrival at Delhi International airport by our company's representative and transfer to your hotel for overnight stay

Day 02: Delhi – Srinagar / Pahalgam (94 kms / 3 hrs) (B,L,D)

After early breakfast, you will be transferred to Delhi airport to catch your flight to Srinagar.

Indigo Air: 6E - 652 (Dep. 0845 hrs / Arr. 1015 hrs)

Upon arrival, embark on your scenic drive to Pahalgam - which is a signature town of Kashmir, situated at the confluence of the streams flowing from the Lidder river and Sheshnag lake. Pahalgam was once a humble shepherd's village with breathtaking views. Now, Pahalgam is the famous hill resort in Kashmir valley and cool even during the summer when the maximum temperature does not exceed 25 degree Celsius.

En-route to you will visit the **Pampore Village Saffron fields** - Apart from Spain, Pampore is the only place in the world where Saffron is grown. Saffron, the most expensive spice in the world is the adornment of the beautiful valley of Kashmir. Pampore grows world famous Saffron. It is one of the oldest crop that is cultivated in Kashmir, for more than two thousand years now.



Saffron is known all over the world for its delectable taste and aroma. It is used to favor many delicious cuisines of the state. Even the much acclaimed 'Kahva' tea is incomplete without the use of Saffron for its olfactory property. However very few people know that it is also famous for its myriad effect on human body. Besides being used as a spice it is also employed in the production of dyes, medicine and perfumes.

After visiting the Saffron fields, continue your drive towards to the picturesque valley of Pahalgam and check into your hotel for overnight stay.

### Day 03: Pahalgam – Srinagar

After breakfast, will have a walk to Baisaren, which is approx 2 km from here, this will cover couple of small villages, set in pine and fir forest will be pleasing. This place offers some amazing surrounding views.

(B,L,D)

Also explore the surrounding beauty and enjoy a leisure walks through the pine forest along the River Lidder and appreciate the surrounding beauty.



Later after lunch drive back to Srinagar, upon arrival visit the old Srinagar to experience the level of urban structure the old city which is much like other "old parts of town" – a maze of narrow and winding streets flanked by two to three story high buildings. Like many other such cities, the existing building stock here seems to be mostly of a late-19th c to early-20th c vintage. From the point of view of architectural style though, Srinagar's old city is quite unique. There is an obvious European influence, but unlike say Old Delhi, where the predominant architectural style of that period is a mix of late-Mughal inspired forms and colonial influences, including western classicism and neo-gothic touches.

The western influences in Srinagar seem to be taken from more northerly European latitudes (as befits the climate of Srinagar), and are less classical in nature. This, combined with local building materials and techniques, makes the landscape in this part of Srinagar quite fascinating to take in.

Evening check into your traditional houseboat for a night stay. Enjoy the beautiful sunset.



### Day 04: Srinagar (B,L,D)

This morning, visit Mughal Gardens, Nishat Bagh (The Garden of Pleasure) and Shalimar Bagh (Abode of love) etc

After lunch enjoy Shikara ride on the famous Dal Lake which is one of the most soothing, relaxing aspects of a holiday in Kashmir. We will also cover the surround villages to know more about Kashmiri peoples.

Evening will enjoy the stunning sunset from our houseboats.

### Day 05: Srinagar – Delhi (By flight) (B,L,D)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Srinagar airport to catch your flight to Delhi

Indigo Air # 6E - 554 (Dep. 1035 hrs / Arr. 1210 hrs)

Upon arrival, embark on your drive to Jaipur, which is one of the most well planned cities of India. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the '**Pink City'**, was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, in 1727 A.D.

Upon arrival check into your hotel for 02 nights stay.

### Day 06: Jaipur

(B,L,D)

This morning excursion to *Amber fort* where a local jeet will take you a top of the fort, a fine amalgamation of Hindu and Muslim architecture and ornamentation, built in the 16th



century.

Also visit, the *City Palace* complex with its various museums where you can see a beautiful collection of Royal Rajput, weapons and miniature paintings. Then visit the fascinating *Jantar Mantar*, the ancient astronomical observatory built by the Maharaja of Jaipur, which is the largest stone observatory in the world. Also drive past *Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)*, a remarkable five storied building along the main street of the old city with semi-octagonal and delicate honey-combed sandstone windows.



After an early breakfast leave for Agra by surface, the city of the world famous Taj Mahal.

(B,L,D)

En-route to Agra, visit Abhaneri Stepwell & Fatehpur Sikri

**Abhaneri Stepwell:** A detour is well merited for its amazing stepwell or 'baoris' and Harshat Mata Temple. According to a legend, the village is so called because the Goddess Harshat Mata, who is portrayed in a joyous mood and is believed to spread brightness or "abha" all around. The village's original name was Abha Nagri and its present name is Abhaneri. It is believed that the celebrated king Raja Chand established the village. On the other hand mythological Raja Chand could be King Bhoja, who ruled over the Gujar kingdom in the ninth century AD.



**Fatehpur Sikri:** The red sandstone Mughal palatial complex. Within the complex lies a mosque built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar and dedicated to Sheikh Salim Chisti, a Muslim Sufi Saint who blessed Emperor Akbar with a son.

Upon arrival in Agra check into your hotel for overnight stay, later visit **Agra fort** - Ever since Babur defeated and killed Ibrahin Lodi at Panipat in 1526, Agra played an important center of Mughal Empire. Akbar chose this city on the bank of River Yamuna as his capital and proceeded to build a strong citadel for the purpose. It is said that he destroyed the damaged old fort of Agra for the purpose and raised this grand group of monuments instead in red sandstone.

Also visit the most beautiful building **by sunset** one of the wonders of the world **TAJ MAHAL** built by Shah–Jehan in memory of his beloved wife MUMTAJ after her death as her memory.



Day 08: Agra – Delhi (B,L,D)

After early breakfast, embark on your drive to Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi, visit Lotus Temple or Baha'I Temple, called in more traditional way, is a House of worship completed in the year 1986 under the supervision of Persian architect Fariborz Sahba.



A short guided city tour of New Delhi covering *India Gate* – constructed as a memorial and was built in the memory of 90,000 soldiers who laid down their lives during World War 1. Drive pass Partiament & President house ( no photo). A short visit to Qutab Minar – is among the tallest and famous towers in the world. The minaret is 234feet high and the highest individual tower in the world

Later after an early dinner, you will be transferred to Delhi International airport to catch your.

### Day 09 Arriving Kuala Lumpur

(MOB)

## **COSTING**

### A) **GROUND ARRANGEMENT**

Per Person in MYR		
Number of pax	4* Hotels	
02 Pax	MYR3,200.00	
04 Pax	MYR2,790.00	
06 to 07 Pax	MYR2,690.00	
08 to 10 Pax	MYR2,590.00	
Supplements - Per Person in MYR		
Single room Supplement	MYR1,100.00	
The above TOUR Fare is subjected to change due to changes in USD exchange rate. The above is based on 3.75		

### **AIR TICKETS**

- (i) Domestic from Delhi Srinagar Delhi @MYR 850.00 ( subject to change )
- (ii) International from Kuala Lumpur Delhi Kuala Lumpur @MYR 1,450.00 ( MAS)

29OCT KUL DEL ETD 1850 ETA 2150

05NOV DEL KUL ETD 2310 ETA 0700

All Air Fares are subjected to change and can only be re-confirmed upon confirmation of booking.

### **B) TRAVEL INSURANCE**

A travel Insurance coverage under AXA Smart Traveller VIP Plan @MYR52.00 per person

c) **INDIA VISA** (must do on your own as required by the India Visa Center)

## **Suggested Hotels**

City	4* Hotels	Nights
Delhi	<u>Holiday Inn</u>	1
Pahalgam	Pine Spring	1
Srinagar	Deluxe House boat	2
Jaipur	<u>Ramada</u>	2
Agra	Clarks Shiraz	1

### **Inclusions & Exclusions**

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- 7 Nights stay at the above respective Hotels
- ❖ All Meals included (Hotel / local restaurant) as per our itinerary
- Meeting and assistance on arrival and departures by our company's representative
- Local English speaking guide for all sightseeing and excursion tours
- Transport using air-conditioned vehicle for all transfers, sightseeing and excursions

♣ 02 Pax : Air-conditioned Medium vehicle

↓ 04 Pax : Toyota Innova car

♣ 06 to 10 Pax : Deluxe Tempo Traveler (9 Seater / 12 Seater)

↓ 12 to 15 Pax : 18 Seater Deluxe Mini Coach

- Shikara ride at Dal Lake, Srinagar
- Tonga / Battery Buss upto Taj Mahal in Agra
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Mineral water (2 bottle of half liter per day per person)

### **EXCLUSIONS**

- Expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone, fax, internet, beverages, camera / video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax tipping to restaurant or hotel workers and on the Houseboat etc.
- ❖ Any other services not mentioned in Price Inclusions above
- Tipping to local guide / driver . Recommended USD3.00 per person per day for the local guide USD2.00 per person per day for the driver

BOOKING: email your interest to <a href="mailto:laura@elsoltravel.com">laura@elsoltravel.com</a>

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